

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 INT-05 COME-00 AGRE-00
DLOS-09 EB-07 L-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 EPA-01 /090 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/E:JAALLITTO:MMS
APPROVED BY ARA/AND/E:JAALLITTO
OES/OFA/FA - BHALLMAN (SUBS)
-----100544Z 108274 /11

R 091720Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDED FISHING SEASON IN
ECUADOREAN WATERS

REFERENCE: A) QUITO 2855 (NOTAL); B) STATE 040640

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE AMERICAN TUNABOAT
ASSOCIATION (ATA) WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TELL YOU RIGHT NOW
WHETHER US TUNABOATS WILL RETURN TO WATERS OFF ECUADOR
AND PERU THIS YEAR. THE ATA IS SO COMPLETELY ABSORBED BY
THE TUNA-PORPOISE DISPUTE AND THE RESULTANT DISRUPTION OF
THE TUNA INDUSTRY THAT IT IS LIVING DAY BY DAY, AND IS NOT
LOOKING VERY FAR INTO THE FUTURE. THAT IS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE
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REASON THE ATA HAS NOT YET HIRED AN AGENT IN GUAYAQUIL, AND
PROBABLY WILL NOT UNTIL IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE TUNABOATS
WILL BEGIN FISHING.

2. THE MAY 4 EDITION OF THE "WASHINGTON POST" HAS A NEWS
ITEM DATED SAN DIEGO THAT STATES, "THE AMERICAN TUNA
FLEET, IDLED FOR MONTHS IN A DISPUTE OVER THE KILLING OF

PORPOISES, ENDED ITS PREPARATIONS TO PUT TO SEA BECAUSE OF RENEWED FEUDING WITH ENVIRONMENTALISTS. THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND SAID ITS MEMBERS COULD NOT ACCEPT THE COMPROMISE WORKED OUT BY SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON (D-CALIF),

WHICH WOULD HAVE PUT OBSERVERS ON ALL FISHING BOATS AND ALLOWED 157,000 PORPOISES TO BE KILLED IN THE NEXT 20 MONTHS."

3. CRAIG HURSH, BANK OF AMERICA (BOA) REPRESENTATIVE IN SAN DIEGO WHO HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE ATA ON THE GUAYAQUIL DETAILS, CONFIRMED THAT NEW ITEM ON MAY 5. HURSH SAID THAT 99 OF THE ATA BOATS ARE IN PORT (IN SAN DIEGO, PANAMA, PUERTO RICO, AND AFRICA), AND WILL NOT SAIL UNTIL THE TUNA-PORPOISE DISPUTE IS SETTLED. HURSH ADDED THAT THE SITUATION IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT MANY TUNABOAT OWNERS ARE STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF SWITCHING REGISTRY TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

4. RE PARA FOUR OF REFTTEL B, HURSH SAID THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPEAT NO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE ATA AND THE BOA SINCE FEBRUARY. THUS, NONE OF THE ITEMS LISTED IN THAT PARAGRAPH HAS BEEN COMPLETED. HURSH SAID THAT ECUADOR WAS THE FARTHEST THING FROM THE MIND OF ATA GENERAL MANAGER FELANDO ET AL, AND THAT A STATE DEPARTMENT CALL RIGHT NOW TO PUSH THE GUAYAQUIL DETAILS WOULD PROBABLY PRODUCE A BIG LAUGH AT A MINIMUM, AND MIGHT INFLAME THE SITUATION AT A MAXIMUM.

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5. OES AND ARA AGREE WITH HURSH'S ASSESSMENT. THEREFORE, THE DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED NOT REPEAT NOT TO CALL THE ATA AT THIS TIME. SHOULD THE US TUNABOAT FLEET BEGIN FISHING, AND IT APPEARS THAT BOATS WILL BE OPERATING OFF ECUADOR, THE DEPARTMENT WILL PURSUE THE QUESTION OF OBTAINING LICENSES BY RADIO.

6. FOR QUITO: PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT AMEMBASSY LIMA ON ALL MESSAGES CONCERNING OBTAINING FISHING LICENSES BY RADIO. LIMA IS INTERESTED, AND MAY FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE IF THE PROCEDURES ARE EVER ESTABLISHED AND USED.

CHRISTOPHER

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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